



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The City is happy to announce the completion of the playground equipment at DeWitt Sports Park (pictured Above). The theme of the equipment at the Sports Park is baseball.

The playground equipment at Riverside Park is currently being installed and is anticipated to be completed by the end of August. The theme of the equipment is a pirate ship.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Farmers Market - Tuesdays 4 pm - 7 pm
- City Hall Closed - July 4th
- Concerts in the Park - July 13th
- Friends of LGR Clean Up - July 16
- Utility Bills Due - July 26th
- Concerts in the Park - July 27th
- Looking Glass Brewery Street Fest - Aug 5th
- 77th Annual DeWitt Ox Roast - Aug 18, 19, 20
- City Hall Closed - Sept 4th for Labor Day
- Summer Taxes Due - October 2nd

MILESTONES

We would like to congratulate Rich Miller, the DeWitt Public Services Supervisor, for his hard work and dedication to the City. This year will mark Rich's 15th year. Congratulations, Rich!

We would also like to congratulate Clyde Smith on recently hitting his five years of service with the City of DeWitt Police Department. Congratulations, Officer Smith!

CLERKS CORNER

Utility Bills were mailed on July 1st and are due by July 26th. Summer tax bills were mailed on July 1st and are due by October 2, 2023. Utility Bills and Tax Bills can both be paid online at:

www.invoicecloud.com/cityofde Witt

No service fees for credit or debit on utility bills, 3% fee for taxes. No service fee for utility bills or taxes if paying by checking and routing numbers.



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUE LEEMING

Happy Summer! It is exciting to see so many neighbors out walking or working in their yards, the crowds at our Tuesday Farmer's Markets, and the renovation of our parks.

The project kicked off with the renovation of the Sports Park. This park hosts soccer, softball, and lacrosse, in addition to the play structure, pavilion, picnic tables, grills, and restrooms. The new structure features a poured-in-place rubber surface and has a sports theme. Kids will have a fun experience, while their siblings are practicing or playing on the sports fields. We hope to put in a walking path around the perimeter of the park to help everyone get their steps in, too!

Riverside Park is the next location to be renovated. A boating-themed structure will be installed and will also feature a safer poured-in-place rubber surface. This park has the highest use according to a 2020 City survey. It has a pavilion, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, and an ADA-accessible kayak launch. We anticipate having the new play structure installed by the end of August.

We have eight parks in the City with play structures, seven of which have equipment over 20 years old. Our Parks and Recreation Commission has assessed each park and developed a plan for new equipment in each area. Each park will have a theme and target appropriate age groups. Play structures are very expensive to purchase and install, so our City staff are pursuing grant funding at every opportunity. The Parks, Recreation, Cemetery and Tree Commission did an excellent job in reviewing our parks, investigating new equipment to fit each park, and prioritizing installation over the next 10 to 15 years. The final report can be found on the City website. After Riverside Park is completed, the next park slated for renovation is McGuire Park.

If you have been downtown to any of our recent events, you may have noticed six new benches! These were obtained by the Downtown Development Authority with funding from the DDA, PNC Foundation, and a grant from the Lansing Area Economic Partnership (LEAP) Public Art for Communities Program. A design from a local artist was selected by our Art Committee. The benches are "Functional Art" and each one has a fun fact about the City.

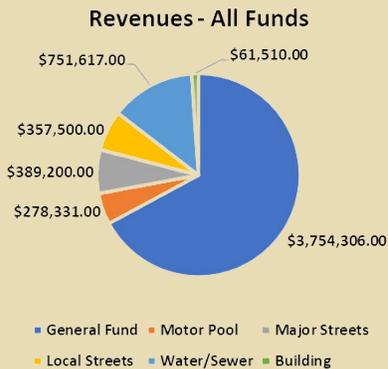
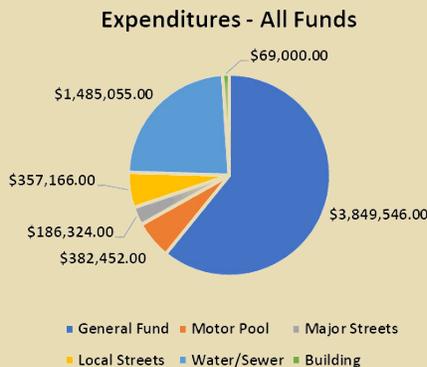
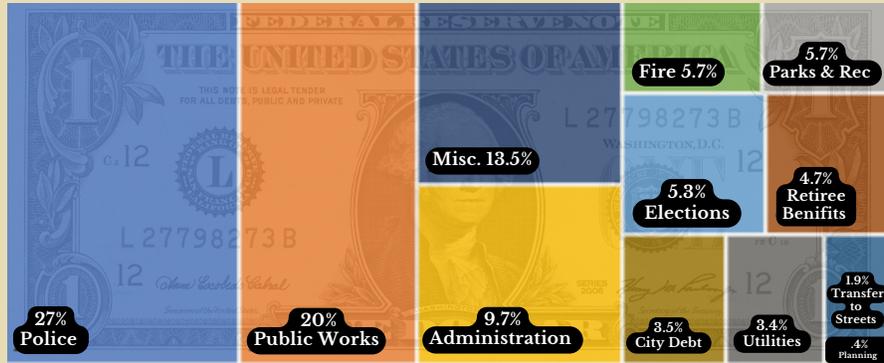
There are so many events happening in our Downtown this summer – Farmers Markets, Car Shows, Music in the Park, the Ox Roast, Pop-up events, and live music events provided by our downtown businesses - please check the City and DDA webpages and calendars for dates and times! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

Enjoy each day,

Sue Leeming, Mayor

City Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

At the May 8, 2023, City Council meeting, the City Council held a public hearing and subsequently adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget for all City Funds. The budget will act as the City's financial plan for the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The graphs show the highlights of the total budget and how each \$1 of your property taxes is spent by the City.



GENERAL FUND

The millage rate to support the General Fund will remain at 13.00 mills, which is \$13 per \$1,000 of taxable property value. The City millage rate has remained unchanged since 1998. Based on the City's total taxable value for this budget year, property taxes will generate \$2,452,800 for the General Fund.

HOW ARE YOUR PROPERTY TAXES SPENT?

Figure 1 shows how each dollar collected from property taxes is spent in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

SPECIAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

\$125,000 was budgeted for Park Improvements at McGuire Park. \$70,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Local Street Fund for street improvement projects. \$130,000 was budgeted for Bond Payment for the bond pay for the New City Hall and Community Room

LOCAL STREET FUNDS

\$230,000 for preventative maintenance and resurfacing residential streets. The proposed streets or portions of streets scheduled for resurfacing are Cedarwood, West Dill, West Webb, and Looking Glass Glen.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS (Water and Sewer Fund)

Quarterly sanitary sewer charges per residential equivalent unit (REU) will be \$76.17 per quarter. This quarterly charge covers the maintenance and capital improvement expenses associated with the sewer authority, SCCMUA. The wastewater treatment plant will begin a \$21.6 million upgrade in late summer 2023. The plant has not had major maintenance or upgrades done since it opened on January 1, 1980.

The upgrades will include UV Disinfection, new pumping capacity, a new electrical system, and upgraded filtering capacity. What does all this mean? The plant has aged and needs maintenance. In addition, new technology from when the original plant was built is available. These upgrades will ensure the plant can meet the State and Federal environmental requirements for discharging the treated water to the Looking Glass River and ensure the processes are the most efficient to meet those requirements and meet the needs of businesses and homeowners.

City residents currently have the lowest quarterly cost (\$76.17) of all the municipalities at SCCMUA and we are committed to ensuring the rates stay at a fair, competitive cost. By comparison, DeWitt Township is \$104 per quarter, Bath Township is \$114 per quarter and Watertown Township is \$95 per quarter. The city will be hiring a consultant to assist with developing a Five-Year Sewer Rate Schedule in the coming months. Additional details will be shared in future newsletters and on our website, www.dewittmi.gov.

The city residents and businesses will be responsible for approximately 12 percent, or \$2.5 million, of the total cost over the next 30 years. The remaining \$19.1 million will be split between the other municipalities; DeWitt, Bath, and Watertown townships.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF FERGUSON

“Hands-free” Distracted Driving Law in Michigan

Vehicle Code:

Beginning June 30, 2023 drivers in Michigan will no longer be allowed to drive holding cell phones to talk, text, watch, record videos, or look at social media. The new law can be found under Public Act 41 of 2023, it also amended MCL 257.602 b of the Michigan motor vehicle code. Specifically, the law states that an individual shall not hold or use a mobile electronic device while operating a motor vehicle. This is also true for commercial motor vehicles and school buses.

Exemptions:

First responders Police, Fire, EMTs, or public utility employees or contractors while working in the performance of their duties are exempt. Also, the use of global positioning or navigation feature of a mobile Electronic Device if the information is not entered by hand while operating the vehicle. The use of a mobile electronic device and a voice operator or hands-free mode if the operator of the motor vehicle does not use the operator’s hands to operate the device, except for either of the following:

- Using a single button to press, tap, or swipe to activate or deactivate a feature or function of the mobile device, or to select a telephone number or name.
- Using a mobile electronic device that is integrated into a motor vehicle and utilizes the user interface that are permanently installed into the motor vehicle.

A police officer enforcing this law may treat a violation as the primary reason for stopping and issuing a citation to a driver. A violation of this law is punishable as a civil infraction.



DEWITT AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY - CHIEF JOE SPAGNUOLO

Greetings from the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority. With Summer upon us please follow all safety guidelines when having recreational fires. Make sure to have a water source close by and all recreational fires must be out by midnight. Recreational fires must be supervised by an adult and no burning if the wind exceeds 10 miles per hour. Only clean firewood may be used in a recreational fire. No yard waste or leaves may be burned. Also, remember to stay hydrated while performing tasks outside during the warm weather.

Each year a firefighter and a fire officer are selected as our employees of the year (for the previous year). For 2022 we would like to acknowledge Assistant Chief John Braska as our Fire Officer of the Year and Firefighter Hannah Ingleright as our Firefighter of the Year. Congratulations to both for a job well done!

If you ever have questions about how service is provided by the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority please feel free to call the station at [517-669-5004](tel:517-669-5004).

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

BRUSH PICKUP

Pickup will begin Monday, September 18th. Brush must be placed at the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. The purpose of this program is to remove brush that is too large to be removed as part of the weekly yard waste-composting program. Brush must be neatly stacked with the large ends towards the street. Only brush that measures between 2" and 8" in diameter is accepted. Shrubs with roots still attached are not accepted.



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

Summer has come to Downtown DeWitt! Thank you to the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club for making sure our downtown is full of beautiful flowers!

Our 18th Annual Cruise-In was held on June 20th and we had another fantastic turnout! Thank you to Rellis Italian Restaurant and Reed Insurance Agency for sponsoring this event! As always, we could not make these events possible without our fantastic DPW staff and the City of DeWitt Police Department.

Last year the DeWitt DDA was awarded a grant to bring art to our downtown. Our Public Art Committee chose the design by Michigan Imagery and during the cruise-in, we held the unveiling of our six new artistic benches that each have a fact about DeWitt on them. We would like to thank the Lansing Economic Area Partnership, PNC, and Michigan Imagery for helping us bring functional art to our downtown.



The Downtown DeWitt Farmers Market is every Tuesday from 4-7 pm. For more information on our farmers market and who will be there each week, you can check out our website at <https://dda.dewittmi.gov/farmers-market> and follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dewittFM>.

DDA Event Calendar:

October 10, 2023 – Fall Fest at the Market (Last Farmers Market) 4-7 pm
December 2, 2023 – Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market

DDA Board Meetings:

The second TUESDAY of each month at Noon: July 11th, August 8th, & September 12th.

